



RECYCLING BULK TRASH



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDS



A Guide to DPW's Special Collections



Government of the District of Columbia
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

Dear DC Resident:

The District of Columbia is an environmentally conscious community, and we are growing greener every day. As the District's primary solid waste management organization, the Department of Public Works (DPW) must do more than collect everyday trash. Special materials need special treatment. The information in this brochure tells you how to ensure that these particular household items are disposed of properly.

They include:

- **Recyclable Materials** – Newspapers, magazines, bottles and cans are collected separately from household trash every week so that they can be made into new items for you.
- **Bulk Trash** – Some refuse, such as old mattresses, don't fit easily into our trash trucks! Additionally, refrigerators, air conditioners, and other appliances contain materials that pose potential health risks if improperly handled. For those reasons, we collect bulk trash by appointment, rather than on trash day.
- **Household Hazards** – Pesticides, solvents, cleaning chemicals, and paint are collected separately twice a year because they can be dangerous when crushed, mixed with other materials, or burned.

I hope you will keep this brochure and take advantage of these special collections. Together, we can do our part to preserve our environment and keep our city clean and attractive!

Leslie A. Hotaling, Director
Department of Public Works



*Department of Public Works
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Why Recycle?

Recycling is an essential element of the District's comprehensive solid waste management program. Recycling recovers valuable resources, lessens greenhouse gas emissions, and reduces our reliance on landfills and resource recovery plants. It conserves energy and our natural resources because it reduces the need for raw materials.

This morning's newspaper can be recycled into another morning's newspaper or remanufactured into paperboard. Cans and bottles can be recycled into new containers, toys, traffic cones, or art.



District of Columbia Government
Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Administration
Recycling Hotline (202) 727-8245

Recycling is Easy!

Do put recyclables out no earlier than 6:30 pm the night before and no later than 6:00 am on the morning of collection. Leaving recyclables out for longer periods exposes them to rain or snow and ruins them for recycling.

Do bundle newspaper, magazines, catalogs, and office paper or put them in brown paper grocery bags. This makes it easier to process them.

Do flatten and bundle corrugated cardboard boxes into sections no more than 42 inches in any direction.

DO NOT put your recyclables in plastic bags. Plastic bags are contaminants, and degrade the quality of the recyclable materials. Also, it is a violation of the sanitation code to use plastic grocery bags or other lightweight plastic bags for recycling or trash collection.

DO NOT put trash in your recycling bin. Collection crews will not empty bins contaminated with trash. Also, trash in the recycling bin may provide food for rats.

Recycling Fun Facts

By recycling one ton of paper, we save: 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 380 gallons of oil, 3 cubic yards of landfill space AND enough energy to heat an average home for 6 months.

Manufacturers can make one extra-large T-shirt out of only five recycled plastic soda bottles.

Recycling aluminum cans saves 95% of the energy it takes to make aluminum cans from scratch.

Every year Americans throw away approximately 60 billion cans, 28 billion bottles, four million tons of plastic, and 40 million tons of paper that could be recycled.

Recycled glass is used to make bricks, fiberglass insulation, and glassphalt (the road paving material that shimmers in sunlight).

All steel products manufactured in the United States contain approximately 25%, and sometimes up to 100%, recycled steel.

During WWII (1941-1945), many farms melted down and recycled parts from rusted equipment so that the government would have metal to make military vehicles, ships and planes.

Now that you know all these facts, don't you want to recycle more?

WEEKLY RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

PLACE RECYCLING BIN OUT NO EARLIER THAN
6:30 PM THE EVENING BEFORE COLLECTION!

Paper Products – Bag or Bundle



Newspaper:

Put in paper bags or tie in bundles.
Include all inserts.

Corrugated Cardboard:

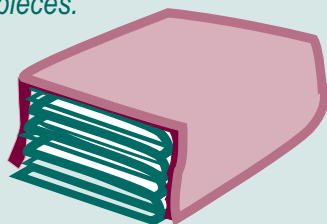
Flatten and tie into bundles that are no more than 42 inches in any direction. *No Pizza Boxes!*

Magazines, Catalogs, and Phone Books:

Put in paper bags or tie in bundles. Mailing labels are okay. *No paperback books or direct mail pieces.*

Computer and office paper:

Put in paper bags or tie in bundles.



CURRENTLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT MIXED PAPER AND PAPERBOARD, SUCH AS SHOE BOXES AND CEREAL BOXES, NOR CAN WE RECYCLE FOOD CARTONS.

SCHEDULE

Once -a -week trash collection
Recyclables collection same day

Twice-a-week trash collection
Recyclables collection on second day

Solid Waste Management Administration Recycling Hotline (202) 727-8245

Containers – Place Directly in the Recycling Bin

Please rinse all containers. This eliminates potential food for vermin.



Glass Containers:

Jars and bottles only; rinse. Remove caps and rings. *No light bulbs, cookware, or window glass.*



Metal Cans:

Rinse food and beverage cans. Labels are ok.
Crush cans flat, if possible.
No pie plates or foil products
can be accepted for recycling.



Plastic Bottles, Jars, and Jugs (#1 and #2 only):

Narrow-necked containers only. Crush flat
(step on it!) Remove caps and rings. *No
yogurt containers, butter tubs, motor
oil bottles, peanut butter jars,
plastic bags or plastic wrap.*



Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection

HAZARDS



IN THE HOME

You may not realize it... but you have hazardous materials in your home! When these products are used according to direction, they pose little threat to the environment. It's when you try to dispose of them that you may be contributing to pollution or endangering pets and people.

Instead of taking this risk, bring them to one of the District's HHWC. This biannual service is free! Check our website for future dates and locations. – www.dpw.dc.gov.

During the collections we will accept computers, TVs and other audio/video equipment – except speakers – for recycling. TV screens and computer monitors must be intact (not cracked or broken).

Materials to Bring

- Acids
- Ink/Stains/Varnish
- Antifreeze/Automotive Fluids
- Furniture Stripper
- Drain Openers
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Chemistry Sets
- Roofing Tar
- Poisons/Pesticides
- Solvents/Thinners
- Oil-Based Paints
- Batteries (All Types)
- Caustic Household Cleaners
- Lawn and Garden Chemicals
- Computers and Electronics*

**There will be a nominal fee for disposing of TV sets and computer monitors.*

BULK COLLECTION

Sometimes, residents need to get rid of items that are just too large for the regular trash. The Department of Public Works collects large, bulky items – by appointment only – from households that receive DPW trash collection service. It's a great way to start spring cleaning.

To arrange for a bulk collection appointment, call the City-Wide Call Center at (202) 727-1000. Appointments usually are schedule within 10 days. Only five items may be collected at one time. If you have a lot of bulk trash, subsequent appointments may be necessary. Bulk items should be put at your normal point of trash collection, unless otherwise directed.

Acceptable Bulk Items:

- Household furniture
- Major appliances
- Hot water heaters
- Mattresses, box springs and bed frames
- Tires (up to 5 only)
- Rugs (MUST be rolled and tied!)
- Large toys (kiddie pools, playhouses)
- Tree limbs (Less than four feet long, and less than six inches in diameter)

Unacceptable Bulk Items:

- Household or gardening chemicals
- Building or renovation materials
- Hazardous and/or liquid waste
- Tree stumps